

KCDHH

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



STAFF ACTIVITIES

July 1st – September 30th , 2002

EQUIPLINK



TELELINK



Submitted

DEAFLINK



by

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ACCESS CENTER



General Information

Administration

The KCDHH offices on the first floor have been re-painted. In addition, there is some office space in the KCDHH building that is not being rented. If anyone knows of a deafness-related agency or organization that is looking for space in Frankfort, please contact the KCDHH office for more information.

KCDHH sponsored a scholarship to the Mental Health Institute on October 8th-10th for a mental health coordinator to attend.

The KCDHH display booth was finalized and printed. It is now available for conferences, workshops, and exhibits where the KCDHH will be represented. The design is truly unique, in that it features “Faces of Kentucky,” pictures of persons whom the KCDHH has served or who have been involved with the KCDHH in some capacity.

Personnel

As reported previously, there were some personnel changes; Julie Posey and Sharon White were promoted internally to fill in vacancies created by Paula Wiese’s resignation and Julie Posey’s resignation. Julie is now the Executive Secretary and Sharon is the Document Processing Specialist.

Ms. Kim Weldon, who has worked at KCDHH for five years, has transferred to Mental Health/Mental Retardation. She will be working with Ms. Marcie Jeffers as a Program Coordinator. The request for Kim’s replacement is now pending.

KCDHH GOALS

KCDHH Goal I: Improve, strengthen and develop services, including human and communication services.

Office of Equitable Access

Kentucky Deaf Access Consortium

The quarterly report was submitted to Eastern Kentucky University on August 7th for personnel and non-personnel expenses for the Kentucky Deaf Access Coalition project and revisions to the budget, including recommended equipment modifications for the Eastern Kentucky University update to the federal government.

A videoconference demo was held at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Lexington on August 17th to test for the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness conference that will be held at the Hyatt Oct. 17th-19th.

At the quarterly partner meeting, held on August 30th, KCDHH provided a videoconferencing demonstration to the for the Kentucky Deaf Access Coalition's Federal Program Officer, who was at Gallaudet University for the demonstration. It was quite successful, with both the federal government representatives and the Gallaudet University staff impressed with the clarity and speed of the videoconferencing. Other discussion items were ordering of equipment for implementation of the sites and goals for the next quarter.

Deaf Access Stations

Staff members have been working to develop standards on for videoconferencing demos, including the type of software and hardware used, the lead time required to set up a demo, and when to have captioners test prior to the demos. The Information Technology section has developed a two-page troubleshooting guide for videoconferencing that is being further refined. Comparisons are being made with different videoconferencing software.

Access Center

The Access Center has received and processed assignments, stipends, and other various requests during the first quarter of this fiscal year. The following tables and narratives explain how the work of the Access Center affects state agencies, consumers, interpreters, and captioners.

Interpreting and Captioning Assignments

		Unfilled Assignments that would have Occurred 1/1/02-3/31/02	Interpreting Hours Provided 1/1/02-3/31/02	
AC: Request for Interpreting	53	2	436.75	7
AC: Request for Captioning	2	1	9.0	1
AC: Request for Videoconferencing	Not recorded			
AC: Stipends	10 requested	9 provided	Total Money Disbursed:	\$760.00

National Certification Opportunities

KCDHH hosted NAD evaluations on July 13th and 14th. NAD sent one evaluator and one interpreter for testing. Each person who was evaluated live was also videotaped for dissemination among 4 other evaluators. These test results will be sent to the applicants from NAD within 8-10 weeks. KCDHH had 12 applicants participate in this testing.

KCDHH also hosted RID testing as an RID supersite. The testing occurred on July 12th, 15th, 27th, and 29th, with a total of 8 candidates taking the performance test in the month of July. The

subsequent test dates in August and September each had one candidate take the performance test.

In summary there were a total of 12 NAD tests given to KY applicants and there were 10 applicants who tested for RID.

TDD Distribution Program

An appropriations increase has been submitted to the Appropriations and Revenue Commission on September 13th for approval in order to spend the additional funding generated for the program since the annual funding cap of \$200,000 was removed.

Status of TDD Applications: (7/1/02-9/30/02)

Request		
TTY: Applying for STE	83	116

KCDHH Goal II: Serve as a clearinghouse of current information for state and national resources to provide appropriate information and referral services.

Office of Information Services

The KCDHH Central files are being purged and updated to provide accurate information for requests. Research on Internet sites for updated information on deaf and hard of hearing issues is being done and will be included in the Central file update.

Emphasis continues to be placed on utilizing information technology to ensure accurate delivery of services. In addition, the KCDHH mailing lists were updated before newsletter was mailed out.

Information Technology

Windows XP Profession was installed on a test computer to ensure that the technology KCDHH uses both in the office and in the DAS sites is compatible with the most recent versions of software available. In addition, Sorensen Envision Version 2.2 was installed and tested with no known problems, and an increased clarity of image was noted.

In order to streamline the productivity of the Information Technology staff, a task list was developed to include all information technology tasks outlined in the 2002 KCDHH Strategic Plan, an information technology purchase plan, and the ongoing maintenance of in house-technology, in which 18 in-house service requests were made and completed.

Web Hits Counter

Month	KCDHH Home Page	Access Center Home Page	InfoLink Home Page	Equiplink Home Page	DeaFestival Home Page	Info Requests
July	458	8	2	0	20	18
August	802	31	11	17	99	33
September	604	22	23	47	101	38
Total	1,386	333	67	179	381	138

Web Update

Information on the KCDHH website is updated on a regular basis. This quarter the web development team added a disclaimer, disability statement, and privacy statement to the KCDHH Home Page in order to comply with state requirements. The Access Center and TTY Program pages were updated to reflect the current status, protocols, and general information about those programs.

The DeaFestival Home Page received quite a few additions, as a variety of pictures and descriptions of the event were provided for people to browse. Tour de DeaFestival was included in the additions, with a summary of what occurred at the NAD Conference in Washington, D.C.

Information and Referral Requests

The KCDHH has documented 1,051 requests from July 1, 2002 to September 31, 2002.

Internal Effort

Nature	Closed Requests	Incomplete Requests	Pending Requests	Incoming Contacts	Outgoing Contacts	Mass Distribution
OAS: Information Technology	5	1		8	4	
OAS: Legislation	3			2	4	
OAS: Special Projects	4	1	2	7	2	
OEA: AC: DAS	1		3	5	1	25
OEA: AC: Evaluations	22		17	51	12	
OEA: AC: Outreach			1	1	2	
OEA: AC: Request for Captioner	2		1	3	3	
OEA: AC: Request for Interpreter	68	4	4	143	378	
OEA: AC: Stipends	9		1	7	9	
OEA: TTY: Applying for STE	83	64	254	344	357	
OEA: TTY: Outreach	1		1	1		750
OEA: TTY: Repair	6		2	11	11	
OEA: TTY: Request for Application	255		24	252	263	
OEA: TTY: Status Check	2			4	4	
OIS: DeaFestival	23	53	7	13	95	1500
OIS: IRA: ASL & Linguistics	6			6	5	
OIS: IRA: Deaf Culture	2		2	2	2	
OIS: IRA: Deafness & Hearing Loss			1	1		
OIS: IRA: Demographics & Statistics	3		1	3	4	
OIS: IRA: Education	2			1	2	

Nature	Closed Requests	Incomplete Requests	Pending Requests	Incoming Contacts	Outgoing Contacts	Mass Distribution
OIS: IRA: Employment			1	1		
OIS: IRA: Families & Children			1	1	5	
OIS: IRA: Human Services	21		2	22	23	
OIS: IRA: Interpreting	27			14	9	
OIS: IRA: Legal Rights of Deaf and HOH	7		1	10	9	
OIS: IRA: Senior Citizens	1			1	2	
OIS: IRA: Sports		1		1		
OIS: IRA: Technology	11	1	2	10	9	
OIS: Library	6			5	1	250
OIS: Outreach		1	1		1	2750
OIS: PUB: Agency Brochure	1			1	1	1000
OIS: PUB: Communicator	1		1	2	1	4606
OIS: PUB: Directory of Services	4		3	5	5	12
OIS: PUB: Interpreter Directory	16			18	17	12
TOTAL	592	126	333	956	1241	10905

Two community-based organizations serving or working with the deaf and hard of hearing communities met in the KCDHH conference room during this quarter.

Sixty-six visitors came to the KCDHH office.

Census

In the April 2002 agency report the possibility of running a trial period on the KCDHH website of a questionnaire that was posted on the West Virginia Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's web page was mentioned. This idea was not adopted due to concerns that the questionnaire may not be statistically sound. The agency is now utilizing the percentages of deaf and hard of hearing persons that were found in the 2000 United States census (11%). Based on that percentage, Kentucky has 420,000 deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Demographics on the number of deaf and hard of hearing individuals by county have also been updated for 2002. Research continues into grants available to do more specific in-depth statistical data collection on this population.

KCDHH Goal III: Initiate and advise the development of public policy and systems change efforts in cooperation with the Governor, General Assembly, public and private entities and local, state and federal governments.

Staff attended:

Tour de DeaFestival occurred July 1-8 at the National Association of the Deaf convention in Washington, DC, with performances and exhibits by the visual and performing artists from DeaFestival – Kentucky, directed by KCDHH staff. This tour brought national recognition to DeaFestival – Kentucky and sought additional sponsors for DeaFestival 2004.

Throughout the quarter KCDHH staff have actively participated in the Kentucky Employee Charitable Campaign, a fund raising mechanism supported by state government to various charities in the Commonwealth.

In addition, KCDHH staff have actively been involved in the planning of the 20th Anniversary Celebration to be held in Danville, KY in the next quarter.

On July 11th, the Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet meeting took place, which highlighted the Governor's School for the Arts Program, one of KCDHH's sister agencies. It was held at Transylvania University in Lexington and there were performances by students in every venue.

On July 15th, a meeting with Ms. Patty Conway and Mr. Bruce Crump of Vocational Rehabilitation in Frankfort occurred to give input on the Kentucky Board of Interpreter nominees, since current board members' terms have expired.

On July 18th, the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness Planning Committee met in Frankfort to discuss presenters, workshops, interpreter provision and hotel accommodations.

On August 7th, the State Board of Education meeting occurred. The Kentucky Dept. of Education reported regarding their actions to date and their proposed actions of proceeding with the American Institute of Research recommendations. A coordinating team for visually impaired/deaf and hard of hearing students was formed called the Statewide Intervention Team. Mr. Kenny Jones was appointed to focus on transition, Mr. Wilton McMillan was appointed to focus on the integration of academic and student life, regional programs, professional development, extended school services, and strategies to assist public schools, Mr. Bill Sterns was appointed to be the liaison between KSD and KSB, transportation needs, facilities studies, and family engagement. Ms. Fran Hardin (Dir. Of Instruction at KSD) was appointed to the team as well.

On August 22nd, the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness Planning Committee met in Richmond to review the details of the up SERID conference in Lexington in October.

On August 26th, the TTY Program staff met with Mr. Kevin Martin, the new TTY Advisory Board Chair, and explained the daily workings of the program, KCDHH's relationship with Public Service Commission, the Kentucky Relay Service and the Kentucky Assistive Technology Services Network. Ms. Martin also received training on the application process, office organization, current funding status, regulation process, and the Advisory Board guidelines. He was provided with material on all of the above, including a current listing of Advisory Board members and upcoming meeting dates.

On August 30th, the Kentucky Deaf Access Coalition met in Frankfort. Highlights were equipment order status, site priority, hiring of director and outreach coordinator, and a timeline for long-term goals.

On September 11th, KCDHH staff attended the Governor's memorial service in Frankfort for the 9/11 tragedies, where KCDHH was recognized for providing in-kind interpreter services for the event.

On September 18th, the Mental Health Advisory Committee met. Statistics were provided on deaf and hard of hearing services provided statewide. Discussion was held about utilizing money designated to Western Kentucky for a staff person because none can be found to hire in that area and funds will be lost June 30th, 2003. A decision was made to allocate the money to Northern Kentucky services if someone cannot be found by December 30th.

On September 21st, KCDHH sponsored a town hall/issues forum at the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a forum for Kentucky Department of Education to share with and answer questions of the deaf and hard of hearing community, parents, staff at Kentucky School for the Deaf, etc. about the changes that have been taking place at Kentucky School for the Deaf and the American Institutes for Research report. Approximately 80 individuals attended.

On September 24th, the K-DAC partner agencies met to discuss the Kentucky Deaf Access Coalition presentation/workshop at the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness, October 17th-19th.

On September 27th, the Kentucky Early Years Advisory Board met in Louisville. The possibility of funds being cut for the program next year, staff changes and shortages, and the Family Learning Vacation were discussed. Instead of a one-weekend event, there will be several one-day events taking place.

KCDHH Goal IV: Empower constituents by providing leadership, training, advocacy, educational and awareness programs and services.

DEAFESTIVAL 2002

A five-year vision was developed for DeaFestival and related activities. A five-year financial partnership proposal has been developed which includes DeaFestival 2004 and 2006, an Artists' Retreat, and an Artist in Residence Program, a Visual Artists' Gallery Tour.

KCDHH staff had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Justin Osmond, deaf nephew of Donnie Osmond of the famous Osmond brothers on August 28th. He is the son of Merrill Osmond. He works for Starkey Company and does mission work in other countries providing children with hearing aids. He works with many deaf and hard of hearing celebrities to do fundraising for that purpose. He is interested in doing something with KCDHH and possibly DeaFestival. He was in Kentucky to do a charity concert with his father, brothers and sisters at the Civic Center. Several staff attended.

KCDHH Goal V: Improve support of people in our organization to create a work environment that fosters productivity and innovation.

On August 16th, training was provided on the Access Center database so that the Executive Interpreter can assist while the Interpreter Relations Coordinator is out on maternity leave.

On August 29th, a slide presentation of photos for DeaFestival and the National Association of the Deaf convention was developed and presented to staff at a birthday luncheon to show appreciation for the staff's hard work in making DeaFestival and Tour de DeaFestival a success.

On September 13th, an action plan was developed and training was provided to transfer responsibilities of answering Access Center and TTY requests when Ms. Kim Weldon left September 15th.

On September 19th, training was provided to management personnel on the employee evaluation system as a result of an audit that was done statewide on the 2001 performance evaluations. Errors from the 2001 performance evaluations were discussed and corrected.

On September 18th, KCDHH staff attended the Health Insurance Fair in Frankfort to have an opportunity to ask various insurance providers questions about their benefits.

On September 18th, the Document Processing Specialist II was given New Employee Orientation in Frankfort to provide information about in-house policies and procedures pertaining to state government employees, and benefits of state employees, etc.

On September 23rd, a representative from Deferred Compensation came to KCDHH and explained what Deferred comp is and how it can benefit state employees. Individual meetings were scheduled with interested staff.